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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**PETER PETTALIA**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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May 23, 2012

Beach Hall  
264 South Lake Street  
Rogers City, Michigan 49779

Dear Mr. Hall,

This letter serves as a statement of support for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Boundary Modification Act, S. 485, and its expansion of the sanctuary's boundaries. It is my great pleasure to support Senator Carl Levin's proposal to expand the water area protected by the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The expansion of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary would protect an additional 38 shipwrecks, as well as 3,637 square miles of water area. As a resident and advocate for Northeastern Michigan's natural resources and aquatic prosperity, S. 485 is very important both economically and environmentally. The protection of our resources and maritime history will be accomplished with the successful implementation of this proposal. This project would provide incentive for investment, redevelopment, and tourism both at the private and public sector. Thunder Bay attracts tourism, providing our local economy with much needed business. Without the costs of taxpayer dollars or federal funds, this legislation would create jobs and an economic boost to our area.

As the State of Michigan is a partner in the ongoing management and research activities in the Sanctuary, I fully support the proposed bill to expand the existing area of the sanctuary from 448 square miles to 4,085 square miles. The area proposed for expansion encompasses the Lake Huron water and bottomlands offshore of Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle Counties. Several local communities also support the proposed expansion as this will provide further insight to their sense of place and also provide an economic boost from increased tourism.

Thank you for your consideration of protecting Michigan's Great Lakes and its cultural, historical, and economical resources. Please accept my support for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Boundary Modification Act, S. 485. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to further discuss my support.

Sincerely,

Peter Pettalia  
State Representative

cc: Senator Carl Levin, United State Senate  
Jeff Gray, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary